

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:232

ANSWERED ON:05.12.2001

NATIONAL POLICY FOR INDIAN SYSTEM OF MEDICINES AND HOMOEOPATHY

A. VENKATESH NAIK;ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government have formulated a separate National Policy for the Indian System of Medicines and Homoeopathy;
- (b) if so, the objectives of the said National Policy and the programme of action being prepared to implement this policy;
- (c) whether the Planning Commission and Finance Ministry have approved the above Policy;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a)to(e): A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 232 FOR 05.12.2001.

A comprehensive Policy on Indian Systems of Medicine has been drafted.

The proposed Policy deals with issues for overall development and utilization of the indigenous system of Indian Medicine as also Homoeopathy in the national health care delivery system.

The major objectives and the programme of action of the proposed Policy are given below : -

- (1) To strengthen the education and research infrastructure of ISM&H. The need to revamp the curriculum of educational institution and to reorient the approach of practitioners to increase their morale, relevance, credibility and professionalism is given priority in the Policy.
- (2) To foster integration of the ISM&H sector in the national health care delivery system.
- (3) To encourage standardization and quality control of ISM drugs and put in place an acceptable level of regulation and enforcement covering the manufacture and certification of drugs.
- (4) To provide adequate budget at the Central & State level which can develop various facets of the ISM sector in a meaningful way.
- (5) To encourage the development of the medicinal plants sector so that quality material is used in ISM drugs and it becomes a sustainable, dynamic export-oriented area.
- (6) To encourage and nurture the Indian Systems of Medicine industry so as to boost internal production and push up exports.
- (7) To pursue identified research priorities to determine the efficacy of ISM drugs and therapies.
- (8) To find a niche for Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy within the growing Complementary & Alternative medical sector which is growing rapidly world-wide.
- (9) To prevent the grant of patents for the medicinal use of plants which have long been in use in Indian Systems of Medicine by documenting the country's traditional knowledge in patent compatible format.
- (10) To revitalise after validation the local traditions and practices that have received wide social acceptance in rural and tribal areas of the country.
- (11) To encourage medical tourism and promote Indian Systems of Medicine in foreign countries.

(12) To encourage research in Veterinary Medicine and manufacture of products and consumables which are affordable and effective in the treatment of animals.

The process of consultation has not been completed so far.